

to take unlimited corporate money and make unlimited political expenditures.

The DISCLOSE Act would strengthen disclosure of election ads and would force corporate CEO's to stand by their ads by appearing on camera to say that he or she "approves this message."

This bipartisan legislation would control the flood of special interest money into America's elections. Powerful special interests and their lobbyists should not be able to drown out the voices of the American people with their pocketbooks.

The DISCLOSE Act would establish touch disclosure requirements for election-related spending by big oil corporations, Wall Street and other special interests, so the American people can follow the money and see clearly which special interests are funding political campaign activity and trying to buy representation in our government. This legislation would also prohibit foreign entities from manipulating the outcomes of American elections and help close other special interest loopholes.

Further, the DISCLOSE Act would ensure that social welfare organizations with membership of 500,000 or more, stand by their political ads and prohibits them from using corporate dollars for campaign purposes, while respecting privacy of their contributors.

I believe that people need to know who is paying to influence their elections.

According to a recent Washington Post-ABC poll, the American people agree. Eight in ten Americans opposed the high court's ruling, including seven out of ten Republicans, and 72 percent favored congressional action to curb the ruling.

Congress should act now to pass this important bill.

I strongly support the DISCLOSE Act and urge my colleagues to do the same.

#### SUPPORTING NATIONAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT WEEK

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 2010*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I would like to communicate my support for designating the week of May 2, 2010 as "National Physical Education and Sport Week." America faces an obesity crisis, and this problem is particularly harmful to our children. The childhood obesity rate has more than tripled since 1980, and today the CDC places the rate at approximately 17%. This crisis, however, does not affect all children equally. It disproportionately affects children from racial/ethnic minority groups and from low-income families. Although only 16% of Caucasians aged 12–19 are obese, 24% of African Americans and 21% of Hispanics are obese. Obesity in childhood is particularly troubling given that obese children often develop many diseases in their youth that typically occur in adults, such as Type II diabetes. Frequently, these children also develop risk factors for cardiovascular disease, including high cholesterol and high

blood pressure. Furthermore, obesity in childhood increases the likelihood of obesity and its associated health problems in adulthood, including coronary heart disease, stroke, and cancer. In addition to the negative health effects of childhood obesity, the crisis also proves costly to the health care system. It is estimated that childhood obesity costs the U.S. approximately \$3 billion a year, and this number will only grow worse if we fail to correct this problem.

Although many factors contribute to the increased obesity of our children, including the lack of nutrition in many children's diets, a key variable is that the American life style has changed to be more sedentary both in school and at home. Physical activity during the school day is restricted much more now than in the past. Only 15% of middle schools and 3% of high schools offer all their students physical education three or more days a week. Many schools offer PE only once a week, with recess seen as an extra rather than a key part of child development. In the past, children played outside for hours after school, but active outdoor time is now much rarer. A 2009 study found that children ages 8–18 watch an average of three hours of television a day. Although these factors affect all children, they are intensified for minority and low income children. Schools in low income areas often cut physical education to one day a week to focus on reading and math. Minimum wage jobs rarely offer the flexibility needed to get kids to sports practices and events; doing so is even harder when public transportation is necessary. Some communities lack safe places to play outdoors, so children engage in more sedentary activities inside. Frequently, low income communities lack grocery stores and options for fresh produce. We must work to reemphasize the importance of physical activity, so that each child has an equal chance at living a healthy life.

We cannot allow this unwholesome future to become the destiny of America's children. Let us instead face this problem, and help these children. We can begin to fight this epidemic by recognizing the importance of physical education and sport in children's lives. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 1373.

#### CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS HOUR

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 28, 2010*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about the special order topic of financial reform. I would like to thank my colleague Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE for bringing this issue to the floor tonight. I would also like to thank CBC Chair BARBARA LEE for her leadership on continuing to shine the light on important issues that matter to the CBC and our constituents as well as the Nation as a whole.

It is past time that we take strong action to reform our financial system to ensure that we

have strong measures in place to best prevent the economic crisis that we have been experiencing over the last few years. We had years without accountability for Wall Street and the Big Banks under President Bush and congressional Republicans which cost the people of this Nation 8 million jobs.

We will: Rein in Big Banks and their Big Bonuses, put an end to bailouts and the idea of "too big to fail," and create a consumer financial protection agency to protect and empower consumers to make the best decisions on homes, credit cards, and their own financial future.

Mr. Speaker, we can no longer afford to let the fox watch the henhouse. For eight years, President Bush and congressional Republicans looked the other way as Wall Street and the Big Banks exploited loopholes, gambled your money on complex schemes, and rewarded failure and recklessness. America's families and small businesses paid the price. We lost 8 million jobs and \$17 trillion in retirement savings and Americans' net worth.

This Congress and President Obama have made tough choices and taken effective steps to bring our economy back from the brink of disaster. The Recovery Act has already saved or created up to 2.8 million jobs and much of the TARP has been paid back. And now we are taking another key step forward with a final agreement on the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

As we rebuild our economy, we must put in place commonsense rules to ensure Big Banks and Wall Street can't play Russian Roulette again with our futures. Wall Street may be bouncing back, but we know from experience they're not going to police themselves.

Common-sense reforms that hold Wall Street and the Big Banks accountable will:

End bailouts by ensuring taxpayers are never again on the hook for Wall Street's risky decisions

Protect families' retirement funds, college savings, homes and businesses' financial futures from unnecessary risk by CEOs, lenders, and speculators

Protect consumers from predatory lending abuses, fine print, and industry gimmicks

Inject transparency and accountability into a financial system run amok

#### WHAT'S IN THE LEGISLATION?

Creating a new Consumer Financial Protection Agency to protect families and small businesses by ensuring that bank loans, mortgages, and credit cards are fair, affordable, understandable, and transparent. We currently have rules that keep companies from selling us toasters that burn down our homes. We should have similar rules that bar the financial industry from offering mortgage loans to people who can't afford repayment.

Ending predatory lending practices that occurred during the subprime lending frenzy.

Shutting down "too big to fail" financial firms before risky and irresponsible behavior threatens to bring down the entire economy.

Ending costly taxpayer bailouts with new procedures to unwind failing companies that pose the greatest risk—paid for by the financial industry and not the taxpayers.

Tough new rules on the riskiest financial practices that gambled with your money